

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SS-20 RSC-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W: WGRAMSAY:MR

APPROVED BY AF/W: HKWALKER

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P 272152Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 188166

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, GEGEN, IV

SUBJECT: LANG AFRIQUE SUGAR PROJECT

REF: STATE 186229

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FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DAVID MORSE HAS ASKED DEPT PASS YOU FOLLOWING:

A) HE HAS CAREFULLY STUDIED YOUR AUGUST 22 MESSAGE AND APPRECIATES INFORMATION AND YOUR CANDOR.

B) HE HAS COMPLETED IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION OF PROBLEM IN MEETING WITH HERMAN FRIETSCH, SENIOR VP OF ISC AND RAYMOND HOFKER OF LANG ENGINEERING.

C) THERE ARE VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS, BOTH HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY, WHICH IN HIS JUDGMENT, PLACE A DIFFERENT COMPLEXION ON SITUATION AND WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANALYZING LANG POSITION.

D) HE FINDS LANG HAS BEEN UP AGAINST SOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT OBSTACLES. NON-PAYMENTS FOR WORK GOING BACK AS FAR AS A YEAR AGO, ARE IN GREAT MEASURE, RESPONSIBLE FOR DIFFICULTY IN WHICH PROJECT FINDS ITSELF. LANG FINANCIAL POSITION HAS NEVER BEEN A FACTOR IN THIS SITUATION, NOR ARE CURRENT PROBLEMS OR ISC COMMITMENTS

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IN ISSUE.

E) SEEMS TO HIM THERE MAY EVEN BE POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED WHICH ARE NOT APPARENT TO THE EYE, EVEN

INVOLVING INTER-MINISTERIAL IN-FIGHTING. THIS CONCERNS MORSE AND, IN HIS VIEW, NEEDS TO BE CHECKED OUT.

2. MORSE IN PROCESS REDUCING ABOVE THOUGHTS TO MEMO FORM, IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH, AND MAKING FURTHER CHECKS. HE WILL SEND YOU A COPY AND WILL ARRANGE FOR IT TO BE EXPLAINED TO YOU. HE SOLICITS YOUR REACTIONS TO REPORT, BASED ON INFORMATION YOU HAVE IN HAND, SO THAT PRECISE STRATEGY CAN BE WORKED OUT TO COPE WITH PROBLEM.

3. MORSE WILLING CONSIDER HAVING SOMEONE AT FRIETSCH OR HOFKER LEVEL HANDCARRY MEMO TO ABIDJAN WHEN READY, POSSIBLY BY END THIS WEEK. IN VIEW APPARENT GROWING DIVERGENCE YOUR TWO VIEWPOINTS REGARDING ROOT CAUSES LANG AFRIQUE PROBLEMS, WE WILL ENCOURAGE MORSE TO DO THIS UNLESS YOU ADVISE OTHERWISE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, CONSTRUCTION, PRODUCTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), REFINERIES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE188166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WGRAMSAY:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740237-0274
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740814/aaaaalih.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: STATE 186229
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LANG AFRIQUE SUGAR PROJECT
TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, EGEN, IV, LANG AFRIQUE
To: ABIDJAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005